

Dear Interested Party:

RE: Call for Nominations to the Sonoran Desert National Monument Advisory Council

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Phoenix District, Sonoran Desert National Monument (SDNM), is announcing the establishment of the Sonoran Desert National Monument Advisory Council and calling for nominations to membership on the Council. The Council Charter was approved by the Secretary of the Interior on March 4, 2005. The purpose of the Council is to advise the monument manager regarding management of the monument. The Council is subject to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Council Act (FACA).

This message is the Call for Nominations for membership on the Council. You are invited to nominate qualified people to the Council. You may nominate yourself for membership. The Call for Nominations was initiated by publication of a notice in the Federal Register on February 8, 2006. It is open for a period of 45 days, ending March 25, 2006. Your complete nomination packages must be received at the address given at the end of this letter with a postmark no later than March 25, 2006.

The following is a list of the 15 positions that will make up the Council:

- Four persons, one representing each of the four Native American tribes or communities listed herein, who will be selected from nominees submitted by the governing bodies of each of the following tribes: Tohono O'odham Nation, Ak-Chin Indian Community, Gila River Indian Community, and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.
- A person who represents and participates in what is commonly called dispersed recreation, such as hiking, camping, hunting, nature viewing, nature photography, bird watching, horseback riding, or trail walking.
- A person who represents and participates in what is commonly called mechanized recreation or off-highway driving.
- A person who represents the State of Arizona, to be appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Arizona.
- A person who is a recognized environmental representative from Arizona.
- A person who is an elected official from a city or community in the vicinity of the Monument.
- A person who is a livestock grazing permittee or who represents the permittees on the allotments within the Monument.
- A person who represents the rural communities around the Monument and who is selected at large from these communities.
- Two persons who represent sciences such as wildlife biology, archaeology, ecology, botany, history, social sciences, or other applicable disciplines.
- Two persons, one from each county, who represent the interests of Maricopa and Pinal Counties, to be appointed from nominees submitted by the Supervisors of Maricopa and Pinal Counties.

Nominees for membership must be qualified through education, training, knowledge, or experience to give informed and objective advice regarding the purposes for which the monument was established, have demonstrated experience or knowledge of the monument, and have demonstrated a commitment to collaborate in seeking solutions to a wide spectrum of resource management issues. Council members must reside in Arizona or those portions of adjoining states (and including St. George, Utah) administered by the BLM in Arizona. The Council must meet at least two times per year, though it will normally meet up to four times per year.

You may nominate multiple people for multiple positions. It is imperative, however, that letters of support be included for each nominee for each position. Nomination materials are available on the Internet at the following website: <http://www.blm.gov/az/sonoran/council.htm>, and at the BLM Phoenix District (address below). Nominations must be submitted on the nomination form found on the website, or in the same format as the form.

After all nominations are received, the BLM will evaluate all nominees to determine the best qualified to sit on the Council, based on the requirements of the Charter as described above and the degree of support expressed in letters from the particular groups or interests that person would represent. The BLM will forward recommendations for a primary candidate and one alternate for each position to the Secretary of the Interior for approval and appointment to the Council. The Secretary will make all appointments.

We urge you to consider nominating qualified people to serve on the Council. The BLM values the participation of the public in the management of your public lands. Participating in the Advisory Council process, either by serving as a member, by nominating someone to membership, or by supporting the membership of someone you believe will represent your group or interests, is a very good way to help manage your public lands.

If you know of other people who would be interested in participating in the Sonoran Desert National Monument Advisory Council in any of the above capacities, please let them know the nomination process has begun.

If you have questions concerning the Council or the nomination process, please call me at 623-580-5500, or e-mail AZ_SDNMAC@blm.gov. We look forward to working with you in the Advisory Council process.

Mailing Address: Bureau of Land Management
Phoenix District
Attn: SDNM Advisory Council
21605 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85027

Thank you.

Karen Kelleher
Manager, Sonoran Desert National Monument